

ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, Senior Pastor

*31 Days of*  
**PRAYER**

*2026 Prayer Consecration*  
**THE ACTS OF PRAYER**  
**January 1 - 31, 2026**

# PASTORAL GREETINGS

Happy New Year!

What a blessing from God to enter a new year. As a church community, many of us arrive at 2026 after a year that stretched us in unpredictable ways. 2025 felt like a roller coaster, lifting our hopes one moment and shaking them the next. We had times of great celebration, yet we also grieved devastating losses—personally, in community and within our own church family. If there is one word to describe 2025, I dare say it would be: **EXHAUSTING!**

This is why we begin with consecration and prayer. We intentionally seek God at the threshold of a new year, not to escape reality, but to let God restore what life has worn down. Howard Thurman said, “There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine.” Prayer helps us hear that genuine voice. It reminds us that we are still covered, still called, still kept by God.

This **31 Days of Prayer: The ACTS of Prayer**, walks us through a prayer model of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Like the disciples who asked, Lord, teach us to pray, we engage not as experts, but as people looking to be shaped by God. Whether prayer is new to you or you’ve prayed your way through many storms, there is something for you here.

The reflections from our own ATBC family will guide and prepare us as we step into 2026 committed to, **Living Triumphantly Through Christ**. My hope is that we emerge from these 31 days rested, grounded, and ready to live with a faith that refuses to bow to chaos.

*Let Us Pray!*



**Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson**  
**Senior Pastor**



# CONSECRATION GUIDELINES

- Use the daily devotional readings and scriptures in this guide to shape your prayers each day.
- Consecrate yourself by fasting and/or setting aside a cherished food, habit, or activity. (Fasting references: Daniel 9:3; 10:2–3; Acts 13:2–3; 14:23; Matthew 4:2; Luke 4:1–2)
- Fasting Options: Choose one or more approaches as you participate in the 31-Day Prayer Consecration:
  - **Daniel Fast** - Eat fruits, vegetables, water, or pure fruit juice. Avoid meat, sweets, and bread.
  - **Sacrificial Fast** - Perfect for those new to fasting or with health restrictions. Set aside things like television, social media, unnecessary spending, or hobbies.
  - **Partial Fast** - Refrain from food during specific hours (e.g., 6:00 AM–3:00 PM or sunup to sundown).
  - If fasting isn't possible for any reason, continue praying with us daily.

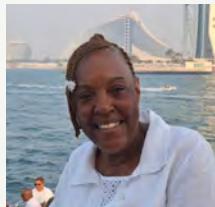
## Tips for a Meaningful Consecration

- **Pray for Guidance:** Ask God to show you where He wants you to focus during this time.
- **Set a Rhythm:** Choose a dedicated time each day for focused prayer—beyond your regular devotion—and set a reminder in your phone.
- **Stay Connected:** Join our Wednesday Evening Prayer Call for encouragement and strength (see your Allen Temple email for details).
- **Partner with Someone:** Invite a friend to walk this journey with you for support and accountability.
- **Follow God's Daily Leading:** If the Holy Spirit directs you to pray differently than the daily reading focus, follow Holy Spirit!
- **Be Social:** Follow Allen Temple on social media each day during the consecration and share your experiences using the hashtag: #ATBCprays
- **Set the Atmosphere:** Use worship music to create a space for prayer. Access our free YouTube playlist by scanning the QR code or using the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccapvyQ4C8U&list=PLmbl-oPl3XQjbWPJ27YHfjsndhX9xsFERd>



# A FRAMEWORK FOR PRAYER

**Exploring the ACTS Prayer Model**  
*offered by Sis. Charlotte Harrell, Prayer Warriors Ministry*



In the Bible, we see prayer as a conversation with God, a two way communication that involves both speaking, and listening to Him. It is a form of worship that includes praising Him, confessing sin, giving thanks and asking for needs and desires (supplication.) Prayer can be spoken, or silent, public or private, and formal or informal.

The ACTS Model for prayer has been taught for many years. ACTS is an acronym that gives a basic framework for how to pray: A- Adoration, C- Confession, T-Thanksgiving, and S- Supplication. However, one of the ways God teaches believers is by giving us an example. The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-11 is the most cited example of the ACTS Model, with the exception of the T- which stands for Thanksgiving.

## THE MODEL:

**ADORATION:** The A stands for adoration, which means worship, glorifying and exalting God. The focus is on God. This could be a song of praise to Him or declaring His attributes (Psalm 150:6.)

**CONFESION:** The C stands for confession. The word confess means “to agree with.” When we confess our sins, we agree with God that we are wrong in our thoughts or actions. We can ask for forgiveness, and God restores us into a right relationship with Him. (1John 1:9)

**THANKSGIVING:** The T represents thanksgiving. (Philippians 4:6) Thanksgiving focuses on what God has done. We can thank God for His love, salvation, protection and provision.

**SUPPLICATION:** The S stands for supplication, prayers for ourselves and other's needs. A supplication is a request or petition. Paul encourages us to make “supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18j, which means to pray diligently for our brothers and sisters.

The ACTS Model guides us to express our love, gratitude, and worship to God in prayer without worrying about having just the right words to say.

But remember, prayer is not a formula. God wants us to talk to Him from our hearts and express ourselves to Him. Sometimes, it's “Lord have mercy” or “Lord order my steps.” Ultimately, God is more interested in the content of our hearts than the eloquence of our words.

# JANUARY 1

"Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" Exodus 15:11

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*Song of Preparation: "I Go To The Rock" by Whitney Houston  
& the Georgia Mass Choir*

## Oh The Power and Majesty of Our God! Who Is Like The Lord?

Have you ever been faced with a situation that seemed so big, so threatening and so troubling that you felt this will be the end of me? Did the high waters of the wave and the ocean of obstacles cause you to immediately experience a sense of impending doom? Well, this is exactly how the children of Israel felt with the Red Sea before them and Pharaoh's army behind them. Yet, Almighty God gave their leader Moses an imperative, a clear direction: use the rod that is in your hand and the faith that is in your heart to declare to the biggest challenge in your life that it is no match to God's power and purpose for your life.

In times of trouble, it is completely natural to feel small, diminished, and overwhelmed with fear, so much so that we immediately desire to give up, to give in, and throw in the towel. But Moses and the children of Israel experienced exactly what our Sovereign and Majestic God wants us to experience in those troubling times. He wants us to know HE is All Powerful, pure in Character and Splendor, and ABLE to deliver you and me and bring us out in total Victory. That's the God that we serve! There is absolutely NO other God like our God, No other! And He will come through for you if you will keep the faith and believe.

He did it for me...He will do it for you; so let's magnify and adore Him in advance for the victory He has already prepared!

*Prayer: Lord, help me to remember that when my heart is overwhelmed with the matters of life, You will bring me to the other side with amazing victory, calm, and peace of mind.*



Rev. Cynthia Carter Perrilliat is an ordained minister, psalmist, worship leader, Co-founder and CEO of the AC Care Alliance, Oakland CA.

# JANUARY 2

"Ascribe to the Lord... the glory due His name; bring an offering and come before Him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness." 1 Chronicles 16:28-29

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*Song of Preparation: "More than Anything" by the Sunday Service Choir*

## Adoration: The Glory Due His Name

It's easy to lose our sense of wonder. We breathe thousands of breaths a day and rarely think of the miracle in each one. In the same way, we can stand before the Lord—the Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer—and forget who He truly is. Familiarity can dull our senses. Routine can make the holy feel ordinary. But this Scripture is a wake-up call to our hearts: Give God the glory that is already His.

Not out of duty. Not out of guilt. But out of recognition—a fresh awareness of His greatness. God's glory is not fragile. It doesn't diminish when we fail to notice it. But our hearts diminish when we fail to behold it. We become small when we forget His bigness. We become anxious when we forget His sovereignty. We become self-centered when we forget His holiness.

To ascribe means to acknowledge, to declare, to place rightful credit where it belongs. When we say, "Lord, You are glorious... You are strong... You are holy," we recalibrate our hearts. We remind ourselves of truth: He is worthy. Always. Our worship doesn't make God bigger—it makes our awareness of Him bigger.

God isn't after perfection; He's after presence. He invites us to come—to step near—bringing an offering that reflects our love:

- Our attention
- Our gratitude
- Our obedience
- Our awe

When we offer ourselves, we worship the way He desires. God is not asking us to perform; He is inviting us to approach. To draw near with something real, something intentional, something honoring.

*Prayer: Lord, restore my awe. Help me to see You as You truly are—glorious, strong, holy, worthy. Open my eyes to Your majesty again. Teach me to bring an offering of wholehearted devotion. Let my worship honor You and reflect the splendor of Your holiness. You deserve all the glory due Your name. Amen.*



Deacon Kendra Roberts-McClure loves God and God's people.

# JANUARY 3

"Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago." Isaiah 25:1

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## *Song of Preparation: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

### **Adoration**

"Adoration begins when we shift our focus from what's going on around us to who God has always been." Isaiah, the prophet of both warning and hope, teaches us this posture in Isaiah 25:1. Standing amid national turmoil, moral confusion, and the unraveling of familiar structures, Isaiah refuses to let chaos have the last word. Instead, he opens with adoration: "O Lord, You are my God... I exalt You."

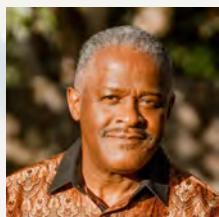
Before he speaks of judgment or restoration, he centers himself in the character of God. Isaiah praises God not for what he sees, but for what God has promised. He reminds the people—and us—that God's plans are "formed of old, faithful and sure." In other words, God's faithfulness predates our fears, and God's purposes outlast our problems.

As we prepare to enter a New Year, Isaiah invites us to let adoration be our first act. Not resolutions. Not regrets. Not anxieties. Adoration. When we adore God, we anchor ourselves in a truth older than time: God is faithful. God is steady. God is sure.

Adoration clears the fog of the past year and lifts our eyes to the God who has already written the next chapter. Whatever uncertainties lie ahead, we begin with praise—a prophetic declaration that God's wonderful works did not end in the past; they are continuing in us, around us, and ahead of us.

Let this New Year open with Isaiah's ancient confidence on our lips: "Lord, You are my God. I exalt You."

***Prayer: Lord, as we step into a new year, fix our hearts in adoration so we may trust Your faithful and sure plans for our lives.***



Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine is a fourth-generation Baptist preacher, scholar, and community leader with more than 40 years of ministry. A graduate of Bishop College, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and United Theological Seminary, he also holds a Psychology and Counseling degree from the California Institute of Integral Studies and is a Certified Life Coach. His preaching and scholarship center liberation, family, and faith formation—grounded in his doctoral work on "Preaching that Enhances the African American Family"—and extend to books including *Preaching Sermons that Matter*, *Give Power to the People*, and *When Mary Finds Us* (with Rev. Diana Becton). He has served as senior pastor in Nashville, Brooklyn, and Richmond, strengthening families and advancing women in ministry; founded the Bay Area Academy of Responsible Preaching, recipient of a \$1.25M Lilly Endowment grant; and now leads The Preaching Coach to equip transformative preachers. Honored by Morehouse College and the City of Richmond, he enjoys golf, bass guitar, chess, and time with his grandchildren and wife, Rev. Diana Becton.

# JANUARY 4

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Revelation 5:12

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***Song of Preparation: "More Than Enough" by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir***

## **Adoration**

God's blessings to you saints of God. I pray your heart is filled with praise and adoration to the only one and holy God. Our God is worthy of all glory, honor, and power. Today our devotional focus is Adoration.

In Barnes' notes of the Bible, please consider the breaking down of verse twelve.

The fact that Jesus was slain, or was made a sacrifice for sin, was the ground or reason for what is ascribed to him. To receive power - Power or authority to rule over all things. The meaning is that he was worthy that these things should be ascribed to him, or to be addressed and acknowledged as possessing them.

A part of these things was his virtue of his very nature. And riches - abundance. That is, he is worthy that whatever contributes to honor, glory, and happiness should be conferred on him in abundance. And wisdom - That he should be esteemed as eminently wise; he should be regarded as having ability to choose the best ends and the best means to accomplish them. And strength/might - Ability to accomplish his purposes. And honor - He should be esteemed and treated with honor for what he has done. And glory - This word refers to a higher ascription of praise than the word honor. And blessing - Everything which would express the desire that he might be happy, honored, and adored.

The Hebrew word Adoration is Shachah in the Old Testament meaning to bow down or worship to prostrate oneself to God only. The Greek word is Proskuneo' to bow, kneel, pay homage.

***Prayer: Lord, we adore you. You are worthy of being esteemed with power, glory, and honor. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.***



**Deacon Michael Johnson serves as the Chaplain of the Deacon's ministry.**

# JANUARY 5

"You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." Nehemiah 9:6

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*Song of Preparation: "Glory to Your Name" by Byron Cage*

## Adoration

At the time Nehemiah 4: 6 was written, the children of Israel have returned to Jerusalem after being exiled in Babylon for 70 years. Upon returning they are despondent about the conditions of the city. It was left defenseless and open to attack by enemies because the walls have been torn down.

In many ways our community and nation feel as if we too are in ruins. And to be honest, sometimes we find our own lives in a state that is unrecognizable and in need of restoration. It is in these critical moments when we face a tough decision: do we accept the conditions as they are, or do we decide we must do something to restore it. The answer depends on our faith and trust in and love for God.

Our response is a measure of our adoration. Adoration is as a feeling of deep, profound love... intense admiration culminating in reverence and worship often depicted through acts of sacrifice, prayer, and song. Through the faith of the prophet Nehemiah, he reminded the people that no matter how it looks, we must always look to The Lord with a spirit of adoration. Like the Jews in this passage, they proved their adoration...their abiding love through an act of worship! Together they rebuilt the wall, even while surrounded by enemies and doubters. "For the people had a mind...a heart to work!" This example reminds us that adoration signifies not just a communal act of worship but also an individual posture of the heart.

When we choose to praise God despite the obstacles, He is honored, and our faith grows deeper. So, no matter what we are presented with, no matter how dismal or dire, we must never forget to demonstrate adoration--our expression of love, reverence and devotion—for God.

***Prayer: Heavenly Father, Give us the same united spirit You breathed into Your people in Nehemiah's day. Strengthen our hands when the work feels heavy, steady our hearts when challenges press in, and keep us focused on what matters most—Your purpose, Your glory, Your kingdom. Make our efforts fruitful, our community strong, and our courage unwavering. In Jesus' name, Amen.***



Deacon Carla Gilbert Keener is striving to be better, more faithful, and impactful in all areas by embodying the love of Christ.

# JANUARY 6

"There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God" 1 Samuel 2:2

***Song of Preparation: "We Exalt Thee, Oh Lord"***

## **Adoration: The Prayer of Hannah**

Sometimes our prayers are long "laundry lists" of requests to God, and we rarely stop to express our adoration and gratitude to the Lord. When was the last time you prayed simply to praise God and exalt God's holy name? Better yet, when was the last time you prayed simply to thank God for God's bountiful blessings? That is precisely what we have in this particular passage of scripture. Hannah simply prays to express her heartfelt thankfulness and adoration to God.

In 1 Samuel 2:2, Hannah declares, "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." Here, Hannah celebrates God's power and sovereignty while expressing her own personal joy. Hannah does three things in this single verse: 1) she acknowledges God's uniqueness, holiness, and righteousness; 2) Hannah declares that no one compares to God, emphasizing God's steadfastness and reliability; and 3) Hannah refers to God as a "Rock" which portrays God as a secure foundation and a solid source of stability. Hannah expresses praise and adoration to God simply for who God is. Like Hannah, we too, should lift up prayers of praise and adoration to tell God how great and awesome God is; how wonderful the Lord is; and how much we really love God.

Hannah's adoration for the Lord is in response to what she has been through. Hannah was in a polygamist marriage; she was barren; Hannah was regularly mocked by Penninah, her husband's other wife; and mistook for a drunk by Eli. 'But God' blessed Hannah with a son Samuel. Yet as she looks back on her life, she experiences God's goodness, faithfulness, and blessings. It's easy to praise and bless God when everything in your life is going good. It's easy to shout 'Hallelujah' and 'Thank You Jesus' when everybody likes you; when you have money in the bank; and everybody likes your Instagram and Facebook posts. When life is going good; it causes us to be complacent, thus distracting us from remembering God. But that wasn't the case with Hannah. She remembers that God is Holy; that God is Sovereign; and that God is Mighty. Hannah's prayer is an example to all of us. No matter where this devotion finds us; God is still worthy of our praise! Psalm 113:3 (NIV). The challenge for us today is to pray prayers that overflow with praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to the Lord.

***Prayer: O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise and I am saved from my enemies. Amen.***



**Rev. Will Brown** is an Associate Minister at the historic Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, CA where he serves in various capacities. He enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, and water sports. Rev. Will is also an author and publisher and 3X Amazon Top Seller.

# *Putting* ACTS IN ACTION

## JANUARY 7

In Rev. Will Brown's reflection, he rightly pointed out that we can come to prayer with "long laundry lists" of needs. Adoration invites us to pause and honor the One who is worthy.

And as Deacon Carla Keener's reflection reminds us, adoration is also an act of faith that shifts our perspective.

As you close this week's focus on adoration, look up 3–5 additional scriptures that reveal God's attributes and weave them into your prayer time. Set a goal to memorize these verses—along with those from this week's reflections—so that even without a Bible in hand, you can speak them, steady your spirit, and enter God's presence with reverence.

Reflection Question:  
Which attribute of God stood out to you most this week, and how did meditating on that truth shape your approach to prayer?

# JANUARY 8

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24

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*Song of Preparation: "Sweep Around" by the Williams Brothers*

## Confession

Unfortunately these scriptures has been used to excuse and justify sin and bad behavior. See also Romans 10:8-10.

(To be forgiven for our sin, we must believe and confess that Jesus is Lord. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ.)

The larger question is what or how do treat the sinner? See Galatians 6:1-4, which says in part, "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

Since "there is no one righteous, no not one" what do we do?

Having lived for 85+ years I offer this biblical based words of wisdom as found in I Timothy 2:22-26 and Philippians 4:10-14.

Keep on loving, keep on forgiving, because we know in part and we understand in part but when that which is perfect shall come, we will understand it better by and by.

***Prayer: Lord, help us be mindful of our own spiritual state and not be harsh with others who may be in need of repentance. Help us keep loving and forgiving as you have taught us and model for us.***



**Deacon Olen C. Grant, Sr., has served at Allen Temple Baptist Church in various capacities, including as a Sunday School Teacher and member of the Deacons Ministry.**

# JANUARY 9

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge." Psalm 51:3-4

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*Song of Preparation: "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Lawrence Matthews*

## A Contrite Sinners Prayer for Pardon

David's plea to God for grace, mercy and cleansing is a familiar and necessary prayer on our Christian journey. David's sincere confession in humility and repentance is a noteworthy action for every believer to remember in times of guilt or great and despair.

A true believer in Christ recognizes that when sin troubles our conscience, guilt gradually diminishes our spiritual and emotional well-being. Yet in His grace, the Lord invites us to lay those burdens at His feet to receive restoration. 1Peter 5:7 Ref.

This guilt dissipates not merely as a psychological process, but as a divine gift initiated by God upon genuine repentance. Confession precedes spiritual cleansing from The Lord.

As the sovereign Lord over all creation, God alone is the true source of authentic spiritual relief, he is the giver of peace, restorer of wholeness, and the author of spiritual consolation.

Focus point: Psalm 51:3, David acknowledges his transgressions before God pleading for cleansing and renewal. As we begin this new year in faith, we can all benefit by pausing to humbly confess our sins, arise renewed by God's grace, allowing God to order our steps. Amen.

***Personal Reflection: Sincere confession and repentance redirects our hearts and minds into proper position to draw nearer to God. Create in me a clean heart Oh God, And renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 ESV.***



Michael McCants is a servant of God, Bible teacher and minister with a mission to positively impact lives by leading them into a relationship with Christ. He is a member of the Men's chorus, and currently serves as the Co-Superintendent of the Allen Temple Sunday School Department.

# JANUARY 10

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

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*Song of Preparation: "I Surrender All" by Israel Houghton*

## Confession

To confess is to agree with God by acknowledging your sin or declaring your faith.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 the Lord was speaking to King Solomon and the people of Israel, reminding them of a previous agreement, and of their role and responsibility as followers.

When we accepted Christ, we also entered into an agreement with God. We promised to love Him and walk/live in obedience. Therefore, as the scripture said to Israel... if we obey, we will be blessed.

If we disobey, we will be judged. The scripture requires us to look at ourselves, walk in humility, pray, repent (confess) our wrongs, and seek God continually, and make a 360' degree turn from sin; then, and only then will God hear from heaven and forgive our sins and heal our land. It's not a choice of doing one or the other but committing and doing it ALL. A relationship with Christ is to be based on truth and surrender(confession) of the heart.

When confession is earnest and heartfelt then God can and will forgive our sins and heal our land. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 NIV

***Prayer: Lord help us confess our hearts to you so we can see your face and feel your presence. Amen***



**Rene' M. Mastin, a follower of Jesus, seeking understanding, wisdom and knowledge from His word.**

# JANUARY 11

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:15b-16

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***Song of Preparation: "Sinner's Prayer" by Marvin Winans***

## Confession

Sometimes I joke with my friends that "Confession is good for the soul", especially when I find myself in a space of vulnerability. Although, I say it jokingly it is true. Confession is good for the soul! Confession in prayer is admitting guilt for the sins we have committed. Because we sin daily by omission and commission, confession must be a continuous act specifically if we desire a right relationship with God and others coupled with an effective prayer life. As Protestants we believe we have full access to God without the need of an earthly mediator yet in the Catholic Church, the priest serves as such. One of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church is Confession also known as Reconciliation or Penance.

In his article, "Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest? The sacrament of reconciliation is about mending relationships with both God and community.", Author David A. Pitt writes, "In sinning against God, we harm others, too. Sin is lived out "in [our] thoughts and in [our] words, in what [we] have done and in what [we] have failed to do." Sin affects how we interact with or think about others, and thus influences human relationships. So when we confess to a priest, the priest also represents the community at large."\*

Although we are not priests from a Catholic perspective, as Protestants, we do believe in the priesthood of all believers therefore when we confess our sins to one another and pray for one another, we offer one another forgiveness and healing. Through confession, the power of our prayers is ignited and the anointing that breaks yokes overflows.

***Prayer: Loving and merciful God, I humbly ask for Your forgiveness of my sins of omission and commission. Forgive me, O Lord, for the things I have said, I have done, I have thought, and I have harbored in my heart that was not pleasing or acceptable in Your sight. Please remove my sins as far from me as the east is from the west. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right and steadfast spirit within me. Holy Spirit, lead and guide me on the path of righteousness and remind me that even when I fall short of the glory of God, God's love for me and grace towards me abounds. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.***

\* Pitt, David A. (2024, February 16). "Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest? The sacrament of reconciliation is about mending relationships with both God and community." U.S. Catholic: Faith In Real Life. <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202402/why-do-catholics-confess-their-sins-to-a-priest/>



**Rev. Dr. Tanisha Sparks is an Associate Minister at Allen Temple Baptist Church and an Instructor for the Bay Area Academy of Responsible Preaching at the Leadership Institute at Allen Temple where she teaches Theology of Preaching.**

# JANUARY 12

"We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws." Daniel 9:5

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*Song of Preparation: "This Altar (Live)" by Psalmist Raine*

## Confession: Daniel 9:4-11

What is the role of Confession...when your world is falling apart...

I found myself asking this question when I first read this Scripture. I read line by line for some measure of encouragement, expanded my search in pursuit of more hope. And to be honest, I couldn't find much. Just admission of collective guilt, shame, pleas for mercy and deliverance, and a vision from God that sounded like things would get worse before they got better. What am I supposed to do with this? What is the point of Confession in times like Daniel's, times like ours, in a land that is designed to do your people harm?

In his meditation, "How Good to Center Down!" the words of Howard Thurman really helped me. While in a season of struggle, mental and emotional fatigue, and regular bouts with anxiety, the Holy Spirit used Thurman's words to help me see that part of the power of prayer is in the space it creates to "sit quietly and see one's self pass by!" When my personal world was in its undoing, taking the time to sit with myself and listen inwardly for the truth about me and my feelings - without self-judgment - made room for God to help me look beyond the fog and see myself clearly. I saw my world, and my part in it, with more clarity. This brought insight to what I needed to pray for next.

Whereas Adoration provides clarity about who God is, Confession provides clarity about who we are. Being in tune with the truth about God and ourselves brings precision to our prayers. This includes admission of sin and repentance (Confession), what to be grateful for (Thanksgiving), and the requests we need to make of the Lord (Supplication) - for ourselves, our people, and the world.

*Prayer: Oh God, when our worlds are falling apart, help us take the time to be still enough...to "sit quietly and see one's self pass by!" Help us receive the gift of seeing ourselves. Give us the courage to accept what we see, let it shape our prayers, and ultimately do what we hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



**Rev. Demitrius Burnett serves as the Executive Pastor of Ministries and a youth ministry leader at Allen Temple.**

# JANUARY 13

“...Forgive your people no matter how much they have sinned against you. Make the enemies who defeated them be kind to them.” 1 Kings 8:50 CEV

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*Song of Preparation: “I Need Your Glory” by Earnest Pugh*

## **Confession: Solomon’s Prayer: 1 Kings 8:49-50**

These verses come during a significant event in Israel’s history, the dedication of Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem.

As the new king, Solomon is burdened with the welfare of his people. The temple’s establishment signifies a new chapter in worship and community among the Israelites.

Solomon’s prayer is a powerful recognition of their need for God and God’s grace. It is a moment of unity, humility, and recognition of their past mistakes.

1 King 8:50 encapsulates a prayer for mercy and forgiveness, asking for compassion for God’s people who have strayed. It speaks to the heart of our relationship with God and emphasizes the importance of seeking God’s forgiveness.

When we reflect on our lives, we can consider the mistakes we have made and how they might cause pain not only to ourselves but also to those around us. This verse encourages us to come before God honestly, recognizing our failures and asking for His grace to restore us.

*Prayer: Eternal God, forgive me for rejecting you. I have discovered that I need your presence in my life for all eternity. I am asking you to reveal to me your glory, so that I can fulfill the assignment you have given me today.*



**Rev. Lana C. Rice, MDiv** is a dedicated facilitator and leader, who uses her voice to inspire, to encourage, and to spread compassion and understanding.

# *Putting* ACTS IN ACTION

**JANUARY 14**

In his reflection on confession this week, Rev. Demetrius Burnett aptly stated, adoration provides clarity about who God is and confession provides clarity about who we are.

Our awareness of our own shortcomings and the ways we miss the mark remind us—just as Rev. Lana Rice's devotion speaks to—of our deep need for God's grace and compassion.

As we come to the close of what was likely a sobering week, where did you experience greater clarity or awareness around places where you need to confess and receive God's mercy?

Reflection Question:

Are there areas where you have received God's grace but have struggled to extend that same grace to yourself?

# JANUARY 15

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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*Song of Preparation: "Thank You Lord" by Chris Tomlin  
(ft. Thomas Rhett & Florida Georgia Line)*

## Thanksgiving: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 are a familiar grouping to many. They were written as part of the first book of Thessalonians to the people of Thessalonica.

In the 16th verse (NIV) it says "Rejoice always." If you look up a definition of rejoice you will find that it is a verb, meaning that rejoicing is an action. This verse tells us that we should actively express our joy.

The next verse says "Pray continually." This helps add on to the previous verse, one way to express joy is to be thankful. Be thankful for everything God has given you. Rejoice or show joy for his blessings. This passage ends with Paul saying "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I think this is the most important verse of the three. This is simple in concept but difficult in execution, oftentimes we get caught up in what we don't have or what we can't do. I myself struggle with this.

Once, I spent my free period in my Cross Country coach's classroom with one of my friends/teammates. In an upcoming meet we were going to run the first 2 miles slower on purpose to focus on the last. Originally, I would be put in a pace group with the rest of the varsity, but my coach asked me if I wanted to run slower due to my poor performance. At first I felt disheartened, but my friend told me something that made me realize how blessed I was. He said "Lawrence, how does it feel to be fast", I responded with "I am not that fast" then he told me "That slower pace coach outlined is faster than I have ever run in a race." From then on, I realized I should be thankful and I suggest you do too. If anything, it just brings a little joy into your life.

***Prayer: Lord, I want to thank you for all of the blessings you have given me, those I recognize I have and those I take for granted. In Jesus name, Amen.***



Lawrence Edmond has been a member of Allen Temple since 2023, he is a Junior Deacon and attends Skyline High School.

# JANUARY 16

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

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*Song of Preparation: "I Won't Complain"*

**Thanksgiving: Colossians 3:17**

Thankfulness is a prominent theme throughout the Bible. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, we are instructed to “be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Did you catch that? We are called to give thanks in all circumstances.

Thankfulness should become a way of life for us—something that flows naturally from our hearts and our lips. Yet we know how difficult this can be. How does a grieving heart give thanks when a loved one dies tragically? How can a parent offer praise after the loss of a child? How, Lord, can Your name be lifted up in the midst of such deep pain?

When we wrestle with these questions, we can look to David, a man after God’s own heart. He offers us a powerful example of giving thanks despite overwhelming circumstances.

In Psalm 30, David praises God for deliverance. This psalm of thanksgiving not only celebrates God’s present help but also remembers His past faithfulness. It is a declaration of who God is—so faithful, so powerful, and so good—that praise becomes the only fitting response. This may require a shift in mindset for many of us, but when we choose to focus on God’s goodness and His faithfulness—even through our tears—our hearts begin to move from heaviness to rejoicing. Why? Because our focus shifts from ourselves to Him, the One who is able.

Let us reflect on Colossians 3:17: “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

In everything—the good, the difficult, and even the heartbreak—may we give thanks to God, for He alone is worthy of our praise.

***Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for always being with me. Thank You for Your love and faithfulness. Amen.***



**Deacon Jacquie Thomas-Williams is a faithful servant and life coach.**

# JANUARY 17

“...With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord” Ezra 3:11

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## Thanksgiving: “I Will Bless Thee, O Lord”

In the third chapter of Ezra, we find the formerly recalcitrant Israelites returning to Jerusalem and rebuilding the temple after a protracted period of exile. Their exile had been the result of repeated disobedience—persistent idolatry, social injustice, and covenant-breaking—but God’s judgment was not the end of the story.

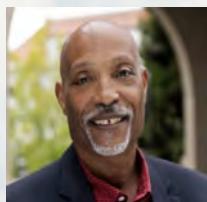
Here we find them rebuilding. After the destruction of the temple, Israel had no place for sacrifice and worship. This moment became a key step in the long journey toward restoring faithful worship to God. Some of the older Israelites remembered the grandeur of Solomon’s temple and bemoaned that the new temple was less magnificent. Conversely (and appropriately), there were others who simply rejoiced in God’s faithfulness. God was graciously restoring. In other words, they chose gratitude over grief. As theologian Derek Kidner reminds us, “This time there is no ark, no visible glory, indeed no Temple; only some beginnings, and small beginnings at that.” Put differently, they counted their blessings. Kidner reminds us that God inhabits the praises of His people.

It is through this same lens that we should view our own circumstances, both triumphs and trials. When our perspective shifts, our spirits are liberated. We learn to count it all joy, knowing that God is still at work.

Israel could have—and should have—been praying, repenting, and giving thanks even during the days of exile. In every wilderness season, God’s word still stands: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). It is indeed darkest before dawn, but as Pastor Jackie just preached, “Midnight is only 60 seconds.”

Remember: It’s perspective. Through it all, I will bless thee, O Lord!

***Prayer: With my hands lifted up and my mouth filled with praise.” With a heart of thanksgiving, I will bless Thee O Lord.***



Rev. Warren Long is an Associate Minister at Allen Temple and serves in many capacities: Advisory Board, Cluster Co-Leader, Global Ministries, Leadership Institute, Mercy Brown Bag, and New Members Ministry.

# JANUARY 18

“But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’” Jonah 2:9

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*Song of Preparation: “Thank You Lord.”*

## Thanksgiving: Jonah 2:9

The ACTS Prayer Model is a fine guide for all of us: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Our thanksgiving, not just our requests, should certainly be a crucial part of our prayers. From reading Scripture, we know that the prophet Jonah disobeyed God and wound up in the belly of a large fish. From there, this repentant man said a humble and profound prayer.

In the second Chapter of the Biblical Book (eponymously) named for him, Jonah recounts what had transpired: how he had not done what God had told him to do. His confession and repentance were forthright and honest. His adoration was expressed via his acknowledgment of the Lord, to Whom he was speaking. This supplicant’s prayer was humbly submitted. At the core of Jonah’s prayer was his gratitude – his thanksgiving – for how God had spared him. Rather than letting him drown (after seamen threw him off of a boat), the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow and rescue Jonah, where the prophet could reflect on his situation.

Verse 9 (NIV) of that second Chapter tells us that Jonah uttered “shouts of grateful praise.” Hmm... How’s that for strongly proclaiming your gratitude to your Heavenly Father for sparing your life from the numerous perils in the depths of an ocean? How’s that for expressing your words of thanksgiving to the giving God Who is forgiving you for your original disobedience – for allowing you another chance to carry out the mission He has for you?

The Lord heard Jonah’s prayer and had the fish to release the prophet for the task in Nineveh.

Let us follow the four points of the ACTS model. Most importantly, let us thank God for what He has done, what He is doing and for what we prayerfully hope He will do.

***Prayer: Lord, we thank you for all You have done, for all You are doing, and for all we pray and hope that You will do. Amen.***



**Bro. Ralph Gordon is a longtime Sunday School teacher and Co-Superintendent of the Sunday School Department at Allen Temple.**

# JANUARY 19

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
I Corinthians 15:57

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*Song of Preparation: “Thank You for It All” by Marvin Sapp*

## Thanksgiving: 1 Corinthians 15:57

Life can change in a single moment, and sometimes those moments feel like they pull the ground out from beneath us. In September of 2019, an ordinary shift in the emergency department turned into one of those moments for me. A simple maneuver I had done a thousand times while caring for patients, resulted in a herniated L4/L5 disc. This began my season of physical pain and fear of the unknown.

When the spinal surgeon told me I needed back surgery and should consider a different career outside emergency nursing, fear rushed in. Anxiety filled my mind with questions: How will I provide for myself? How will I pay my mortgage? What will I do if I can't return to the job I love? My heart sank under the weight of uncertainty.

But even in this season of uncertainty and fear, God invited me to look back over my life and all He had done for me and give thanks. Not because my situation was easy. Not because the path was clear. But because He had a track record of always making a way and providing. God can use even the worst situations for His Glory, and remembrance of that was reason enough for thanksgiving.

In the seasons when the path ahead feels shaky, 1 Corinthians 15: 57 reminds us of something unshakable. Victory does not come from our own power, our own plans, or our own abilities. Victory is given to us freely and fully through Jesus Christ. Even when the future feels unpredictable, He is already writing plans so we can live life abundantly.

And as I look back on that difficult season, I realize now that it was all a set up for a prosperous future and I say, “thanks be to God.” I thank God for His strength that sustained me, His peace that steadied me, and His faithfulness that kept showing up in ways I could never imagine. I learned that even in uncertainty, even when life feels fragile, there is always something to be thankful for, because God is always working, always loving, always victorious.

*Prayer: Lord, fill our hearts with gratitude and help us to see Your goodness and faithfulness in every situation and season.*



**Deaconess Amelia Roberts is rooted in faith, devoted to serving God by serving people.**

# JANUARY 20

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving." 1 Timothy 4:4

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*Song of Preparation: Jesus is the Light of this World*

**For reflection read: 1 Timothy 4:4 and Genesis 1**

In the stillness of a winter season, there is darkness all around. Even this darkness cannot keep out the light of God. Darkness cannot prevail in light. The light overcomes darkness without fail. The late-Pastor Emeritus often captured our struggles in life with the unforgettable phrase, "many dangers, toils and snares." These words were not empty. They were full of understanding of the hardness of life. His words signified he understood folks were going through struggles in life. These dispositions of struggles could be so hard, so weighty, so mean that it is challenging, in these cases, for us to see and embrace the goodness of God.

In God's commitment to the human family, we are offered a word from Above, given to us in the Hebrew scripture of the Book of Genesis. The light of God is expressed in Genesis 1:3. In Genesis 1:4, God saw the light and proclaimed it was good. We are the children of the light of God. God created everything and everything created, which is all of creation, is good.

1 Timothy 4:4 reiterates something so essential to our understanding about God. That is, everything God created (and creates) is good. In the next clause of this same verse it states, "nothing is to be rejected if we receive it with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer" (NIV). Have mercy on us God when we reject your creation. Distractions, life obstacles and ourselves can takes our hearts away from where God wants us to be -- that is thankful. Thankful for creation, thankful for another day, thankful for this new year. When we are thankful, rooted in the word of God and pray, we can lean on the Goodness of the Lord and see ourselves as children of the light, which is God.

*Prayer: God of Light, have mercy on us for our shortcomings. We ask that you keep us, and purify our hearts so we will be humble in thy sight. Let us not reject your goodness in any manner of your creation for everything you have created is good. We thank you for everything you provide us.*

Brother James Grandison has been an Allen Temple member for forty years. He is the son of Arlene Grandison and the late-James Grandison Jr. He is husband to Sister Carina Grandison, and they have two sons, Jacob and Lucas.

# *Putting* ACTS IN ACTION

## **JANUARY 21**

From the testimonies of Deaconess Amelia Roberts and Junior Deacon Lawrence Edmond, we're reminded that thanksgiving is all about perspective.

Both shared experiences—great and small—that could have produced discouragement. Yet as they chose to remember who God is and view their circumstances differently, they found reasons for gratitude beyond what they could immediately see.

Being thankful, especially in a difficult moment or season, often comes down to a choice: How will I view what I am experiencing in light of who God is and what God has said?

Reflection Question:  
Think back over the last week, month, or year. Is there something that wasn't pleasant at the time, but for which you can now offer thanks?

# JANUARY 22

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” Hebrews 5:7

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*Song of Preparation: “I Need You Now” by Smokie Norful*

## Supplication: Hebrews 5:7

Hebrews 5:7 describes Jesus praying with “loud cries and tears,” showing a Savior who fully experienced human suffering.

In Gethsemane, overwhelmed by sorrow, Jesus expressed His genuine emotions to the Father, demonstrating that God welcomes sincere prayer. His reverent surrender—“not My will, but Yours”—models a faith that trusts God’s wisdom, even when the way involves suffering rather than avoiding it.

Although Jesus was heard, the Father did not remove His suffering; instead, He provided resurrection in the aftermath.

This teaches us that God listens to our prayers, even if His answers differ from what we expect.

Our struggles aren’t signs of abandonment but opportunities for deeper dependence.

Because Jesus endured anguish, He understands ours, and we can approach Him confidently.

His example encourages us to share our burdens honestly, surrender our desires, and trust God’s process of redemption through hardship.



**Minister Michael Perrilliat serves as an Associate Minister at Allen Temple Baptist Church.**

# JANUARY 23

Meditative Moment: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18

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Perhaps you are already dealing with the busyness of the morning, or the busyness of your day. Things you need to do. Places you need to go. People you need to see.

But for this moment in time, please slow down. Breathe in. Prepare yourself for this meditative moment of reflection, prayer, and song. Please allow some time for calmness and re-focus. Choose to come to God and relax in His loving presence.

## FOCUS - FOCUS - FOCUS

The gospel song writer, Donald Lawrence, encourages us with these words in one of his many songs. (Paraphrased) He sings:

*While I was in the spirit, God showed me some things, He told me some things, revealed some things. If you need to now God's plan for your life, get in the spirit, let the Lord minister to ya."*

It's refreshing to know that all of God's children can bring their cares, their concerns, their thoughts, and their trepidations to a loving God (1 Peter 5:7). Our ancestors shared these nuggets about the Lord: [“way-maker”, “heart-fixer”, “mind-regulator”, /burden-bearer]. Just know that everyone is facing some challenge. Prayer helps us to process what we are going through. Our key scripture from the 6th chapter of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, verse 18, has its own poignant points that speak to us.

Consider this simple examination: Pray how: “In the Spirit.” Pray when: “On all occasions.” Pray incorporating: “All kinds of prayers and requests.” Pray for whom: “For all the Lord's people” (intercessory prayer).

Just know that He faithfully “supplies every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). Believers are reminded to trust in God. So, bring it all to Him; take it to God in prayer.

***Prayer: Lord, I thank you because your line is never busy. And I can always reach out to You (in prayer). Amen.***

As you delve into your prayer for today following the model of “Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication” Share your thoughts, your cares, your concerns, your laments with the Father. Then, refocus your time by listening to the lyrics of the song of meditation below:

***Song of Meditation: “You're Beautiful” by Eddie James***



**T. Wayne Coleman** serves as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher at Allen Temple

# JANUARY 24

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3

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*Song of Preparation: “I Need You Now” by Smokie Norful*

## Supplication: Jeremiah 33:3

In a world that often feels chaotic and overwhelming, it's easy to forget the simple yet profound truth found in Jeremiah 33:3. God invites us into a dynamic relationship through prayer. When we take the step to call on God, we open the door to divine answers, wisdom, and understanding.

Jeremiah, one of the major prophets of the biblical text, received a word from the Lord for a nation in exile, a people who felt lost and abandoned. Yet, in this season of despair, God assures them that he is still listening. God is eager to respond—eager to reveal insights that transcend human understanding. This promise remains true for us today. No matter the circumstances we face, God is available to us.

When we call to God in prayer, it is not merely a ritual but an opportunity to draw close to God. It is where our fears, doubts, and desires can be laid before the Lord. In return, God promises to reveal “great and unsearchable things.” These revelations could be guidance, comfort, or even answers to prayers showing us ways we didn't know we needed to go.

As you reflect on this verse in your prayer time with God, bring your worries, fear, and hopes before God. Trust that He will respond in ways that will uplift, lead and guide you. God will answer you with love and wisdom beyond your understanding. Embrace the awesomeness of this dialogue! Step boldly into the answers God has for you!

***Prayer: Thank you, Lord for inviting us to into your presence. Open our hearts to your guidance and wisdom. Open our hearts to the great and unsearchable things you have in store for us. Amen.***



**Dr. Brenda Guess serves as the ATBC Educational Cluster Leader and Chancellor of the Leadership Institute at Allen Temple.**

# JANUARY 25

"When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, 'This man deserves to have you do this.'" Luke 7:4

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*Song of Preparation: "Trust In God" by Aware Worship (ft. Mark Gutierrez)*

## **Supplication: What Counts? (Luke 7:2-7)**

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead" Nelson Mandela (Long Walk to Freedom, 1994).

What does this quote have to do with the scripture? It is a quote that shines a light on how we need to remember others in our prayers (Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16; Matthew 5:44; 1 Timothy 2:1-2). We have not been cast unto an island unto ourselves, Jesus, did not come to condemn the world, but through HIM the world we might be saved (John 3:17).

When we pray, we must remember the cloud of witnesses that prayed for us without knowing our name. The Roman Centurion thought enough of his man servant to seek out Jesus because knew of the healing power that Jesus possessed. Notice the centurion, he stepped out of his comfort level to seek Jesus and acknowledge his unworthiness. Despite his thinking he thought he was unworthy, Jesus honored him and healed his servant. The Roman Centurion sent others on his behalf, yet he knew of Jesus' persona. What was the message Jesus said about the Roman centurion, a possible worshiper of idols? "Jesus said, I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." What do these words mean to us, where is our faith and does it count?

Reflecting on this scriptural passage and living in the current world setting it is so easy to think that our own goodness has the power and overlook the real power...Jesus's power. We can't be anxious (Philippians 4:6-7), we must seek mercy (Psalms 4) and always ask for delivery (Psalms 6:4). Now the question is, how far are we willing to go to pray for others, when we pray for our own needs?

*Prayer: Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep...  
God bless everybody. Amen.*



Reverend Dr. Bonita A. Kitt, is a active member with her mission circle, Mary Ellen Hawthorne. She also participates in the Congregational Care Team and with the Sisters Only ministries.

# JANUARY 26

"Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"  
Mark 9:24

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*Song of Preparation: "You've Been So Faithful" by Ted & Sheri*

## **Supplication: Help My Unbelief in the Midst of Doubt**

God shows up even in our doubt, uncertainty and fear. Sometimes doubt is stirred by the enemy, who is whispering lies, creating confusion, and pushing us to question what God has already spoken. Yet even in those moments, God is still there and will deliver. When we place even our trembling faith in God's hands, he steadies us. He soothes our worries. He strengthens our hearts.

Recently, I found myself wrestling with anxiety and uncertainty about the path ahead. Questions flooded my mind: *Am I enough? Can I really do this? What if I fail?* These thoughts were meant to derail me and a trick of the enemy. Mark 9:17–25 touched me deeply because I saw myself in the desperate father who came to Jesus. He was hopeful but also hurting. He believed yet at the same time, he was not sure. The father's humble, vulnerable plea became my own, *"Lord, help my unbelief."* God answered with resounding favor, right in the midst of my doubt.

As believers, we often hold both faith and doubt at the same time. Yet Jesus does not turn from us. He walks with us. Jesus is with us as we struggle through our thoughts and fears. He invites us to surrender every concern, every hesitation, every unspoken worry. Jesus reminds us that nothing is impossible when we believe. So, when we lay our petitions before the Lord, we must trust and believe he will answer. When we earnestly and prayerfully bring our whole hearts to him, he shows up victoriously in our circumstances.

We can take **anything** to God in prayer and supplication. We serve a God who understands our weakness, honors our honesty, listens to our cry, and answers when we call.

Call on God because He answers.

***Prayer: Lord, thank You for meeting me in my doubt. Strengthen my faith, calm my fears, and help me trust You fully. Amen.***



**Deacon Vangeria Harvey** is a member of the Deacons Ministry at Allen Temple. She loves God and serves the Lord with gladness, and she is daily encouraged by her favorite scripture Romans 8:28.

# JANUARY 27

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

*Song of Preparation: "Take It to the Lord in Prayer" by the  
Aeolians of Oakwood University*

## Supplication: Philippians 4:6-7

Supplication—asking God for what we need—is an act of faith rooted in belief that God hears us, cares for us, and desires relationship with us. In Philippians, Paul tells us not to be anxious about anything: not some things, but ANYTHING. With so much trouble in the land and in our lives, how are we not to worry? Is that an aspiration too lofty to achieve? Although it is challenging, I am not overcome because I know I have a Heavenly Father who loves me, knows more than me, has better ways than me, and who wants to hear from me and reward me for my faith! He invites us to bring our requests before Him, trusting that He will answer according to His will.

Not only is getting rid of anxiety challenging, but it is also hard to ask because it requires surrender. We come to God acknowledging His sovereignty, not demanding outcomes. Sometimes His answer is "yes," and our hearts rejoice. Sometimes it's "wait," and we learn patience. Sometimes it's a "no," which stings, but is wrapped in love and protection and can send us in a direction that is even better than we could have imagined!

Supplication is not only about petitioning for ourselves—it includes family members who are grieving or sick, friends looking for work, church members struggling, and even those who wrong us. When we pray for others, we choose compassion and Christlike love.

Supplication reminds us that God cares about every detail of our lives. Nothing is too small or insignificant to bring before Him. When we present our requests, He responds by guarding our hearts with peace that surpasses all understanding. The scripture gives us the prescription to wipe our worries away: Prayer + Petition + Thanksgiving = PEACE!

*Prayer: Lord, teach us to boldly bring our requests to You—with humility, thanksgiving, and trust—believing that You hear us and will answer according to Your perfect will. Guard our hearts with Your peace knowing that we've lifted ourselves, our loved ones, and even our enemies before You who is able to do ALL things but fail. Amen.*



Deacon Jeannine N. Walker, loving daughter of Deacon Eddie and Sister Connie Walker, has been a member of Allen Temple for over 15 years serving across many ministries and is President and CEO of Walker & Associates Consulting, a strategic management consulting and executive search firm supporting mission-driven clients

# JANUARY 28

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

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*Song of Preparation: “House of Prayer” by Eddie James*

## Supplication: Keep On Praying On!

I’m a firm believer that the biggest battle in prayer isn’t praying—it’s continuing to pray beyond the present moment. When you get a phone call with bad news or experience a setback, it’s easy to cry out to God. But what do you do when what you prayed about persists and it doesn’t appear that God is moving on your behalf?

In the Amplified translation of our focal text, Jesus gives us the remedy: “Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.” Whatever we do, we must keep on praying on!

Today’s text reminds me of one of my favorite parables in the New Testament—the Parable of the Persistent Widow in Luke 18:1–8. The parable sets up the stakes: in one corner, an unjust judge who doesn’t fear God and doesn’t respect man. In the other, a woman in a patriarchal society without power, without an advocate, and very likely without resources. Despite the odds stacked against her, she was unrelenting and unwavering in her pursuit. Over and over again, she went before the unjust judge and demanded, “Grant me justice against my adversary.” Her persistence paid off, and she ultimately received the relief and the remedy she sought.

Jesus used this parable to teach His disciples that we ought to pray and not give up. Our call is to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking—knowing that, unlike the unjust judge of Luke 18, we have a loving God who invites us to the throne of grace to obtain mercy in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

*Prayer: Lord, You challenge us in your word to not give up or faint in our praying. But sometimes the weight of what we’re bringing before you and the cares of life can cause us to lose focus and lose sight of your promises. Lord, renew our strength in the place of prayer. Help us to not be weary in well doing, knowing that in due season, we will reap if we faint not! In Jesus Name, amen!*



A member of Allen Temple Baptist Church since October 2011, and an ordained Deacon since April 2023, Tiye Scott has served in various ministries of the church, including the Adult Family Life Ministry, LYFE Choir, and Prayer Warriors Ministry.

# *Putting* ACTS IN ACTION

**JANUARY 29**

As we near the end of our consecration journey, we can look back and see how each part of the ACTS model has prepared our hearts to seek the Lord for our needs.

Adoration lifts our eyes to who God is. Confession roots us in truth about ourselves and our need for mercy. Thanksgiving shifts our perspective and trains us to recognize God's goodness.

All of this forms the soil in which supplication—bringing our requests before God—can take root.

But sometimes supplication isn't simple. As Deacon Vangeria Harvey shared, we can face the enemy's lies intended to weaken our faith. At other times, as Minister Michael Perrilliat reflected, the weight of our circumstances pushes us into a deeper wrestle with surrender and trust in God's sovereign will. Wherever you find yourself this week—confident, uncertain, weary, or hopeful—the beauty of prayer is that God meets us in all of it.

Reflection Question:

What request are you carrying right now that requires you to trust God beyond what you can see or control, and how might God be inviting you to bring that need to Him with honesty and expectancy?

# **JANUARY 30**

## **Putting it all Together: Building Your Own ACTS Prayer**

Using the form below, take time now to craft a prayer that reflects your experience during our time of consecration and how you are hoping to see God move in your life this year!

### **ADORATION**

### **CONFESION**

### **THANKSGIVING**

### **SUPPLICATION**

# JANUARY 31

## A Closing Prayer of Consecration offered by Sis. Delois Deloney, Prayer Warriors Ministry



O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth. Who has set thy glory above the heavens. (Ps. 8:1) You are Emmanuel, God with us, You are forgiving and compassionate. We acknowledge Your greatness and faithfulness to us. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of coming into your presence daily surrounded by you on every side. Every movement of our day are the blessings that we sometimes take for granted. 1 Chronicles. 29:11, says, and we pray, "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours."

Lord, we come before you today as newborn babies. Nothing is hidden from your sight. So, we come before you to confess that we have sinned against you, have fallen short in our faith, hope, commitments, in fear and worry, but you know all about it. Ps. 66:18, says, "If we have sin in our hearts, you will not hear us." In all our ways we acknowledge to you Lord the beginning and end of who we are. Remembering 1 Jn. 1:9 – If we confess our sins, that You, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. You are the God who sees and knows our heart. Search and cleanse us as only you can; and lead us in the way of righteousness.

Because of who you are we feel spiritually compelled to thank you in all circumstances for your ultimate sacrifice of your Son Jesus, redeeming us with his precious blood. Help us to make a conscious effort everyday to thank you in all circumstances and even in difficult times - remember who you are...that you are everywhere present with all power in heaven and earth in your hands. Thank you that wherever we are in whatever the season or storm YOU ARE THE ONE who moves mountains, and cause walls to fall, and with your power you perform miracles. Nothing catches you by surprise. Thank you for being on our side. Thank you for your leadership and guidance in and through these 31 days of consecration and beyond. To the glory of God.

Lord God in this time of consecration we bring our heart felt requests to you with thanks and praise to your holy and righteous name. Praying always in the Spirit for believers and those who do not know you. Keep us in a constant state of communication with you -- as we are surrounded by reasons for prayer. We pray for a continuous, prayerful state of mind and heart that will help us to not be anxious about anything (Phil. 4: 6-7). Help us to remember, You reign over all that is... that You are the Source of all our needs. We will keep our eyes lifted to the hills, where our help comes from. It is in your name Jesus, that we bring our sick, the weak, the lost, left out, all who have unmet needs; those separated from their loved ones, and those who need a relationship with you. Have your way, Lord. You are a Healer, Burden Bearer, Way Maker, and Miracle Worker. Nothing is too hard for you. We pray your anointing in abundance according to your will. Help us O God as we continue in this season of consecration: that you will consecrate us now to thy service, Lord, by the power of thy will divine, Let our souls look up with a steadfast hope and our will be lost in thine.

To God Be The Glory. In the name of Jesus. Amen

# THANK YOU

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." -  
Ephesians 1:16

On behalf of the Prayer Warriors Ministry we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the creation of our 2026 Prayer Consecration Devotional Journal. May God richly bless you!

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